

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to clarify the subject matter.

New claims 12-15 have been added.

Claims 1-15 are pending.

In the Office action, the claims are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,594,799 (Robertson et al.). In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

To anticipate claimed subject matter, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every limitation either expressly or inherently.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to recite that system or server computer is adapted to allow the user to select a circuit device having either a single-layer structure or a multi-layer structure. Support for those amendments may be found at page 28, lines 12-17.

The Robertson et al. patent discloses a multi-faceted portal site that allows connection over the Internet to end user systems and suppliers. Various tools and services are available through the portal site to facilitate electronic design by engineers. Although the Robertson et al. patent discloses that the user may make various selections that are transmitted to the portal site, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the system is adapted to allow the user to select any of a single-layer structure or multi-layer structure, as recited in the pending claims. At least for that reason, the rejections of the claims should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, the dependent claims recite additional features that are not disclosed or suggested by the Robertson et al. patent. For example, claims 13 and 14 recite that the processor means of the server determines whether the circuit device is of a single layer structure or a multi-layer structure. That feature is disclosed, for example, at page 28, lines 18-26.

In contrast, the portal site in the Robertson et al. patent simply provides information to the user and allows the user to make selections regarding various design tools and services to assist the user in making the circuit design, which then is delivered from the portal site to the

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Page : 8 of 8

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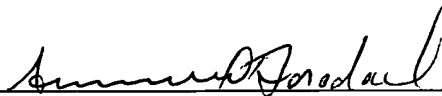
selected IC fabricator for manufacturing. There is absolutely no suggestion in the Robertson et al. patent that the portal site determines, or is capable of determining, whether the circuit device is of a single layer structure or a multi-layer structure. For those additional reasons, claims 13 and 14 should be allowed.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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